

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES GRANTS TO FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Commends grantees for providing social services for at-risk Ohioans

COLUMBUS (May 9, 2006) – Governor Bob Taft today announced grants totaling more than \$15 million to 71 faith-based and community organizations across Ohio. The grants, administered by the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI), will help provide social services including education, job-training and counseling to at-risk and vulnerable Ohioans.

“At the state level, we recognize that government is not always the most effective messenger of hope and inspiration to heal broken lives,” said Taft. “We created the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives so that we could partner with social service organizations that are already positively impacting individuals, families and communities across Ohio.”

GOFBCI awarded five types of grants, including:

- **Ohio Compassion Capital Project (OCCP)** – \$450,000: Focused on helping faith-based and community organizations increase their effectiveness, expand their organizations, diversify funding sources and create collaborations to better serve those in need.
- **Ohio Strengthening Families Initiative (OSFI) Demonstration, Collaboration and Mentoring** – \$12 million: Focused on three critical areas of concern – ex-offenders and their families, at-risk youth and healthy marriage. OSFI funding will help grantees create and strengthen partnerships to further their work on reducing child-poverty rates, breaking the cycle of crime and incarceration and reducing the number of children born out of wedlock.
- **Returning Home/Family Case Management for Ex-Offenders** -- \$2.7 million: Grants will help ex-offenders with job-training and education to successfully re-enter the workforce and adjust to a healthy and stable family life. GOFBCI is partnering with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections to administer the grants.

A federal Compassion Capital Fund grant is the source for the Ohio Compassion Capital grant. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds the remaining grants.

Taft made the announcement at Rachel’s House in Columbus, a faith-based rehabilitation home for female ex-offenders and a partner with the Economic and Community Development Institute, an OSFI Demonstration grant recipient. Krista Sisterhen, Director of the GOFBCI, Representative John White, Chair of the GOFBCI Advisory Council and Shauna Charles, a Rachel’s House graduate, joined the Governor for the announcement.

“Through these grants, I know that together we can make a real difference in people’s lives and secure a better future for our entire state,” said Taft.

A list of grantees is attached.

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